

By: Thompson of Brazoria

H.B. No. 3712

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the training and hiring of peace officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.2551 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.2551. BASIC PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COURSE. The basic peace officer training course required as part of a peace officer training program under Section 1701.251(a) may be no less than 720 hours.

SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.269 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.269. TRAINING PROGRAM AND POLICIES FOR FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS. The commission shall develop and maintain a model training curriculum and model policies for peace officers who conduct field training.

SECTION 3. Section 1701.351, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

(a-2) Before the first day of each 24 month training unit during which peace officers are required to complete 40 hours of continuing education programs under Subsection (a), the commission shall specify the mandated topics to be covered in up to 16 of the required hours.

SECTION 4. Subchapter J, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.459 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 1701.459. MODEL POLICY ON PREEMPLOYMENT
2 INVESTIGATIONS. The commission shall develop and make available to
3 all law enforcement agencies in this state a model policy for the
4 preemployment investigation of a person licensed under this
5 chapter. The model policy must incorporate:

6 (1) the duties and responsibilities of a law
7 enforcement agency or governmental entity under Section 1701.303;

8 (2) the request, analysis, and use of any employment
9 termination report or criminal background check information
10 obtained under Section 1701.451; and

11 (3) any other information the commission considers
12 necessary to conduct a preemployment investigation of a person.

13 SECTION 5. (a) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Texas
14 Commission on Law Enforcement shall modify the curriculum of the
15 basic peace officer training course as necessary to comply with
16 Section 1701.2551, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

17 (b) The minimum hour requirement for the basic peace officer
18 training course under Section 1701.2551, Occupations Code, as added
19 by this Act, applies only to a person who first begins the course on
20 or after July 1, 2022.

21 SECTION 6. Not later than January 1, 2022, the Texas
22 Commission on Law Enforcement shall develop and make available the
23 model training curriculum and model policies required by Sections
24 1701.269 and 1701.459, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

25 SECTION 7. Section 1701.351(a-2), Occupations Code, as
26 added by this Act, applies only to a training unit that begins on or
27 after the effective date of this Act.

1 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.